

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on June 24, 2008. This response is timely. Any fee due with this paper, including any necessary extension fees, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Summary

By the foregoing, claims 1-113 are cancelled. New claims 114-151 are presented. No new matter has been added. All claims read on elected Invention I.

Applicant reserves the right to file continuing applications.

Rejections

The now-cancelled claims stand rejected under non-statutory double patenting rejection in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,171,106 to Elberbaum. The claims also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,267,039 to Elberbaum in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,319,453 to Copriviza.

The rejections are traversed with respect to the new claims. None of the cited art teach, disclose, or suggest the claimed invention.

The recording of plurality of cameras into a single recorder is achieved by a field or frame switching method as disclosed in the '039 patent. This method provides for recording a single "picture" (termed as a field or frame) of each camera in the system in rotating sequence, one camera after the other.

For NTSC having sixty (60) fields, i.e., pictures, per sec., it will be possible to record sixty cameras per sec. with each recording is of a single "picture" by each camera. Recording from ten cameras will result in six pictures per each camera per sec. and two cameras recording will give 30 pictures per sec. per camera.

To provide efficient timing to achieving the above, all the cameras must be externally synchronized so that the switch over from a camera to the next will take place at the start of each “picture” (field). This is one of the teaching of the ‘039 patent. A further teaching of the ‘039 patent is the ID, for identifying each camera signal when it is recorded.

The ‘106 patent uses a similar recording concept, i.e., switching the cameras in sequence at fast rate. The multiple recorders of the ‘106 patent combine the recorders together into one, to increase the recording capacity. For example, six recorders with each having 2 Tera Byte will have a combined 12 Tera Byte).

None of the recorders in the ‘106 and ‘039 patents are recited as being externally synchronized. Such synchronizing of recorders never existed because it is totally unnecessary. The recorders lock themselves to the camera signals fed to them and need no further external synchronization.

The presently claimed invention recites a plurality of externally synchronized recorders (apparatus) and outputting a plurality of synchronous playback signals by the plurality recorders (method).

Herein, synchronous also means time-based (such as at the same time). For example, one use is playing back a recording of a Black Jack table of a casino from different angles by different cameras – all at the same time.

Therein, the display of the same scene is accomplished by different cameras, each at different time, to view the scene events in progress (synchronously playing back the different camera’s signals, each at real time (60 fields per sec.) and unlike discussed above, in a slow frozen or time lapsed pictures.

Furthermore, none of the cited art teach, disclose, or suggest the real time recording (60 fields per sec.) of each camera for a week or more and the ability to review the camera recording (playback) of the past, and switch-over (synchronously) to monitor the same scene at present time, thereby identify with ease when a change or event of the past, or of the present took place, or to observe a progressing present event. This is what is known in the movies a going back in time (time travel...).

It is also possible to view each of the cameras individually in real time (60 fields per sec.) or view all the cameras in multi screen display in real time, which is completely novel. Thus, the present invention includes a focus on time and date.

Therein, one aim is to connect many such recorders to a large matrix switch, for example, receivers in the claims, to enable a casino operator to recall past view of any camera or cameras of the system, by simply keying the time and date and the camera ID(s). Such system never existed before, it is novel and none of the cited reference, alone or in combination with each other, teach, disclose, or suggest this feature.

The '106 patent teaches, for example, how to extend the recording time by piling them together to combine all their storage capacity. This is possible by feeding the same camera signals to all the recorders and recording each recorder to its maximum capacity and shift the recording to the next.

The '106 patent does not teach, disclose, or suggest synchronizing the recorders. As discussed above, the recording of many cameras into one recorder (or to the many piled up recorders of '106 is only possible by fast switching between the cameras, one after the other at every field or frame or at every several fields (slower switching). This is the state of the art of how the recorders by all manufacturers operate and are the subject, inter alia, of the '106 and '039 patents.

None of the cited art teaches, discloses, or suggests connecting a single camera to a single recorder and synchronizing the recorders and the playback process.

The '106 and '039 patents, inter alia, discuss the ID code of the cameras ('864), the external sync ('352) and the fast synchronized switching between cameras. In the '106 and '039 patents, the retrieving for playback of a given stored camera signal, or several cameras signals, is similar to the current application and is also done by keying the camera I.D(s) and the time/date of the recording. However, it will be impossible to have a synchronous time and date for all the cameras of the '106 or the '039, not even for two cameras only, because they are recorded in series one after the other. It is also impossible to display individual time and date for each camera signal.

In contrast, the many recorders/cameras setup of current invention provides parallel recording and therefore a single time/date selection provides for synchronous playback of cameras, all recorded at the same time. There is no way to show in '106 a playback of the example cameras (viewing the black Jack table) for an event taking place at different times. The only sequence the '106 and '039 can payback will be a time lapsed displays of frozen (still) pictures with visible time intervals between pictures.

The multi recorders, the two recorders in Copriviza recited in 8:18-39 allegedly teach that the second recorder is recording when the first recorder is playing back, that this provides continuous recording of the aired commercials (by television stations), and that Copriviza introduces time/date to the recording.

The recording and playing back video with superimpose time and date are well known since the mid seventies. Copriviza's time and date would not appear to have developed this concept.

Similarly, having two recorders with one to back up the other when the other is playing back or changing tape and the like is another well known in the history of recording, including audiotapes or even wire recorders from well during the 1940's.

What Copriviza misses is synchronizing his recorders.

Moreover, the cited art does not teach, disclose, or suggest the time base corrector (TBC) circuit. It is used for the monitoring mode when the camera is not externally synchronized and the recorder is outputting a relay camera signals.

The time base corrector is needed during the switch over to playback or back from playback to monitoring. If the switching over are not synchronized (or time base corrected) the switch over will cause a vertical roll and disturbance during the switching. The time base corrector is not needed for recording non-synchronized cameras because the recording processing circuit does among others the same thing (time base correction).

Since the digital recorder records and plays back simultaneously keeping the circuit busy, TBC circuit was added to provide a free operating circuit for the relayed signal of a non externally synchronized camera i.e., to provide three simultaneous synchronous operations, record, playback and monitor.

In summary, only one independent method claim and one independent apparatus claim are now presented. None of the cited art, including applicant's own '039 and '106 patents, alone or in combination with any other art, teach, disclose, or suggest the external synchronizing of plurality of digital recorders.

All dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim from which they depend.

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In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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